State Governments mentioned the need for procurement of coarse cereals, pulses, etc. under price support scheme. However, at present a total of 25 major agricultural commodities are covered under the scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement mechanism already exists for all these commodities. In case of fall in prices of these commodities below the MSPs, the nodal agencies, designated for respective commodities, are required to intervene in the market and undertake procurement. As a result of this mechanism, large quantities of oilseeds, copra and coarse cereals in addition to wheat and rice, were procured during the years 2000-2001 pursuant to the decline in their prices. The procurement of wheat and rice by the public procurement agencies, namely Food Corporation of India (FCI) is, however, very large because procurement is undertaken not only for price stabilization reasons of these commodities, but also for maintainig buffer stock and for public distribution system (PDS). This is not the case with other commodities covered under the MSP scheme.

Earthquake relief to Gujarat

1402. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance given to Gujarat by Government to meet the earthquake relief and rehabilitation work, till 30th June, 2001;

(b) what is the share of different Ministries and Departments of Government in providing financial assitance with reference to the above; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is not availing the resources made available by Government to carry out the different tasks requiredbythatState? THEMINISTEROFSTATEINTHEMINISTRYOF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Funding of expenditure from Central Government on natural calamities of severe nature like the Gujarat earthquake is mainly

through the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). So far, a sum of Rs.1467.37 crores has been released to the State from the NCCF. The State Government is dealing with the task of long-term relief and rehabilitation in a comprehensive manner.

Misuse of funds for Gujarat earthquake victims

1403. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's role in utilization of relief funds for Gujarat earthquake victims stating the monitoring system, if any, to ensure proper utilization of funds received from within the country and from outside;

(b) whether any instance of misuse of these funds have been noticed or brought to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat is responsible for proper utilization of donations received by them in the wake of the earthquake. The State Government have informed that they had received donations/funds, from within and outside the country, in State Chief Minister's Relief Fund and had decided to utilise these for the victims of the earthquake. According to them, assistance has been given to the affected victims in accordance with the rules and regulations for disbursement from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The State Government have also informed that no instances of misuse of these funds have been noticed or brought to the notice of the State Government.